



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**METRO BOARD TO CONSIDER SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY PUBLIC  
TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION IN PARK MESA HEIGHTS**

Hoping to ease disruption to local businesses that will be negatively affected by public transit construction, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas is calling for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide support and financial assistance to small businesses along the Crenshaw corridor between 48<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> streets. The upcoming construction of the light rail line to the airport will run at street level and will likely disrupt businesses along that corridor.

The motion, which will be presented by the supervisor on Thursday, July 25, at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board meeting, asks staff to investigate successful business loss mitigation programs that have been implemented in other urban areas, including Seattle and Minneapolis, to determine which specific programs have been successful. In addition, the motion calls for staff to work with the City of Los Angeles and the County to explore possible funding for such a program, if it is deemed feasible and to seek public and private partners to assist in this effort. A full staff report to the Metro board will be expected within 60 days of the motion passing with recommendations for the board to consider.

In Seattle, for example, more than \$22 million has been loaned to 50 local businesses since 2006. <http://www.rvcdf.org/index.php>

“Other cities across America have instituted robust programs, including financial assistance, to help businesses that have been disrupted by transit construction,” said Chairman Ridley-Thomas. “We know that these programs have been successful in assisting entrepreneurs, particularly those with small and locally-owned businesses, through the challenges of transit construction. So it is our duty to look out for these historically and culturally significant businesses as we move forward with the approved Crenshaw/LAX light rail line.”

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